

IN THE SPECIFICATION

**Please amend the Title on page 1 as follows:**

IMAGING APPARATUS AND IMAGING METHOD FOR REDUCING  
RELEASE TIME LAG

**Please amend lines 22-23 on page 4 as follows:**

FIG. 2A and 2B depict a block diagram of a digital camera according to the present invention.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 27, as follows:**

The CPU block 104-3 closes the mechanical shutter 7-4a by driving the mechanical shutter 7-4a through the mechanical shutter motor 7-4b at the same time that the exposure is completed. The CPU block 104-3 conducts the setup for loading the still image into the CCD 1 signal processing block 104-1 right before the exposure is completed, and loads the data from the CCD 101 when the exposure is completed. The CPU block 104-3 also drives the strobe circuit 114 whose charge state is displayed by the strobe LED 3.

**Please replace the Abstract at page 39 with the Abstract on the following page:**